

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for ketalizing triacetoneamine, which comprises:

reacting triacetoneamine and a hydroxyl derivative having one or more hydroxyl groups with gaseous hydrogen chloride in a non-polar solvent to yield the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine ketal.

Claim 2 (Canceled):

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the solvent is an acyclic hydrocarbon, a cyclic hydrocarbon, or an aromatic hydrocarbon.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the solvent is heptane, cyclohexane, ethylcyclohexane, toluene or xylene.

Claim 5 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out at from 20°C to 150°C.

Claim 6 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out at from 50°C to 90°C.

Claim 7 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting forms water which is removed from the reaction mixture.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein triacetoneamine and the hydroxyl derivative having one hydroxyl group are in a ratio of 1:2-8.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein triacetoneamine and the hydroxyl derivative having one hydroxyl group are in a ratio of 1:2-4.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl derivative has at least two hydroxyl groups.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the triacetoneamine and the hydroxyl derivative having at least two hydroxyl groups are in a ratio of 1:1-4.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the triacetoneamine and the hydroxyl derivative having at least two hydroxyl groups are in a ratio of 1:1-2.

Claim 13 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl derivatives are monohydric or polyhydric alcohols.

Claim 14 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hydroxyl derivative is ethylene glycol or glycerol.

Claim 15 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises adding superstoichiometric amounts of hydrogen chloride.

Claim 16 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the reacting is carried out batchwise, and the gaseous hydrogen chloride is added subsequently.

Claim 17 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises neutralizing the reaction with an alkali metal alkoxide or alkaline earth metal alkoxide.

Claim 18 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the reaction mixture is neutralized with a powder or alcoholic form of sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide, potassium methoxide or potassium ethoxide.

Claim 19 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out continuously.

Claim 20 (Original): A process for producing a polymer, comprising ketalizing triacetoneamine according to the process of claim 1, and adding the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine to a polymerization reaction.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out with gaseous hydrogen chloride as the only catalyst.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out to convert at least 80% by weight of the triacetoneamine to the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine ketal.

Claim 23 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein no further acid catalyst is used.

Claim 24 (New): A process for ketalizing triacetoneamine, which comprises:
reacting triacetoneamine and a hydroxyl derivative having one or more hydroxyl groups with gaseous hydrogen chloride in a solvent to yield the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine ketal,
wherein the solvent is an acyclic hydrocarbon, a cyclic hydrocarbon, or an aromatic hydrocarbon,
wherein the reacting forms water which is removed from the reaction mixture, and
wherein the reacting is carried out with gaseous hydrogen chloride as the only catalyst.